



The Ames Intelligencer

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Fall 1995

After months of inquiry and listening to individuals and organizations in the area and museum professionals across the country, the Museum Interest Group summarized collected wishes and ideas, wisdom and advice into the following statement - and in the process, a name emerged as well.

The mission statement encompasses the desire for the facility to be a county-wide institution and the desire that it include arts and cultural activities in addition to a historical museum.

The name combines the name of our county, and the intention to "tell the story" of the unique human experiences in central Iowa.

THE "STORY CENTER"

The **mission** of the STORY CENTER is to allow visitors to experience the human drama of the past and the present in order that we may understand where we have come from and who we are. The STORY CENTER will kindle a curiosity about our unique culture and impart an appreciation for the important contribution Ames, Story County and surrounding communities in Iowa have made to the culture, history and heritage of our country and the world.

The STORY CENTER will use historical archives and objects, the arts and cultural presentations to set the stage, engage the senses, connect the present with the past, and help visitors of all ages - especially children - to discover and understand the human experience. In its collections and programs, the STORY CENTER will create a special focus on the story of discovery - how research, science, technology and education have changed the way we live and work.

Goals for the historical collections are to include:

- indigenous objects and archives from Ames, Story County and surrounding communities.
- items which emphasize the unique story of this county and surrounding area: daily life, business, government and the influence of research, science, technology and education.
- items which preserve and share the community's memory, which are a statement of culture, comment on community values, which express how we live, what we value and who is included in our story, how we fit in a national/global context.

At a May 20th work session, members of the Association's Museum Interest Group "put it in writing".



- objects that are well documented and in good condition which will be professionally handled and stored in a manner which will preserve them for the long term. will be more than an "antique mall". Will include extensive oral histories from area residents which will enhance and explain the material collection.
- genealogical research documents and access to others.

Goals for other collections:

(yet to be determined) art, reference, plants...

Goals for programs and education are to:

- create an interactive living/learning atmosphere for persons

of all ages that creates new understandings of the past, present and future, or understandings in the context of today's knowledge. Programs will use historical objects, art objects, theater, lectures - any form of human expression which tells or enhances the story.

- operate from a position of strength by telling those stories which we can tell well, will focus on stories the community needs and wants, will be authentic and distinctive.
- be as much about people as about things - will be emotionally engaging with interpretations focused on the human story told with objects. The program will express the fact that "who & why" is more interesting than "what & when".
- have a child-focused component, emphasizing the stimulation of inquiry, experience and discovery.
- present program events, displays and activities prior to actually having a building.

Goals for tourism are to:

- provide visitors with a total experience. Museums that are collections of only old objects are not popular attractions. Museums must present an entertaining experience to assure attention.
- offer a distinctive, inviting and personable experience relating the story of our culture and community values.

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It's Got a Name, a Mission and Goals!

☞ continued from page 1

- provide a well marked and accessible attraction that adds economic value to the city and county.
- create programs with its activities and collections that market to the 90's visitor trends. Given that tourism is slated to be the #1 industry by the year 2000, The STORY CENTER shall accomodate visitors that are better educated, more mature, predominantly women, inclined to stay near home, more demanding of quality, more affluent, want broad experiences incorporating history, culture, scenery and recreation.

Goals for facility and site are to:

- allow for organizations to merge efforts and pool resources as much as possible, providing storage, exhibition and presentation spaces, activity spaces, research workspace, office space for staff and other organizations, meeting rooms. Development of

the facility will be accomplished in phases.

- be easily accessible from Ames, from the county and from the interstate. Must be clean, well marked, well tended, above the flood plain, near restaurants and lodging.
- have lots of parking, big enough for buses to park and turn around. Must be open regular and reasonable hours. Must have more than adequate, good quality storage.
- have room to expand.

Goals for funding are to:

- create a reasonable and viable business plan, just like any new business.
- identify and secure the multiple sources of financial support which are real and ongoing, including civic/county support, grants, bequests, earned income, entry fees, user fees, memberships, donations, etc.
- include Board members who can assist with and influence support. ♦

At the June 5 meeting, the following committees were established to move the STORY CENTER project forward:



LEGAL

John Nutty

SITE/FACILITY IDENTIFICATION

Nick Howell

HISTORICAL COLLECTION IDENTIFICATION

Coleen Nutty, Joy Munn, Lois Vohs

COUNTY OUTREACH

Priscilla Matt and Maggie Hilgersen

PUBLICITY

Maggie Hilgersen

FUNDING DEVELOPMENT

Kathy Svec and Peggy Baer

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Suann Evans

GENEALOGICAL COMMITTEE

TBA

Not all chairs have been established and committees will need additional volunteers. AHA members wishing to be more involved may contact the chairs directly or contact Kathy Svec, AHA President for more information.

The STORY CENTER Committee will meet the following dates, at 7:30 pm, usually in City Hall: Sept. 11, Oct 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4, Jan. 8, Feb. 5, Mar. 4, Apr. 1, May 6, June 3

Get Involved in AHA Activities!

**Clip & Send to
PO Box 821,
Ames, Iowa 50010
or call any
Board member.**

Name

Address

Phone

I wish to get involved in:

HOGGATT SCHOOL, Ames' first school located on the grounds of Meeker School:

- 1) assist with routine cleaning and maintenance,
- 2) assist with repair projects,
- 3) become a tour guide, using the Hoggatt School manual to learn one-room school facts

BAUGE LOG HOME, currently being restored, located at McFarland Park

- 1) assist with restoration projects on supervised work days,
- 2) assist in identifying and locating needed furnishings,
- 3) assist in developing an educational manual for guided tours,
- 4) assist with preparations for and hosting of open houses

City Hall displays:

- 1) work with committee chair to develop themes and borrow objects for displays
- 2) design displays and install borrowed objects

Newsletter/Education:

- 1) look up historical Ames topics in public library and write short articles for newsletter
- 2) interview Ames residents for articles in newsletter
- 3) do layout of newsletter with pre-written copy
- 4) do labeling and mailing of newsletter
- 5) develop lectures and workshops on historical topics open to the public

Collections Storage, currently have 400 sq/ft of donated space for AHA owned items located downtown

- 1) assist with cataloguing of small number of items currently owned by AHA
- 2) interview persons who have contributed items to get the most complete story possible for future display

The STORY CENTER, the cultural center/museum being developed for Ames/Story County.

See box above for the committees. ♦

Thanks for your help!



BAUGE LOG HOME

He proceeds from the historic home tour last fall will be used to begin the stabilization of the loft floor. A discreet metal framework will be installed, providing support so that the remaining structure covering the interior walls can be removed, exposing the logs. This will allow us to reposition the stairway to the loft, which is the next step in returning the home to its 1890-1910 appearance. The loft reinforcement is being done by Falls Millwork, Kelley, Iowa. ♦

New Display at City Hall

The Council Chambers display cases in City Hall were recently filled with World War 2 related items, loaned by Don Faas, Ames. Newspapers, ration books and other "home front" memorabilia will be on view until November 1. ♦

Recent Donations

- books written in Norwegian for the Bauge Log Home by Jack Adams.
- the original City Council table from 1915 City Hall by The Thrift Shop.
- the remaining unclaimed house plans from the City of Ames Inspections Office.
- Ames Community Arts Council archives.
- newsletter design and layout by Christine Fullhart

Buy a Bag of

AMES HERITAGE BLEND COFFEE



next time you are at
North Grand Mall!

Burgie's Espresso Cafe

has developed this unique roast for the Association and donates 20% of the sales to assist with our efforts to keep Ames history alive.

Mark Your Calendars!



OCTOBER 2

Ames historian, Farwell Brown and a few of his friends will present a program, "Women of Ames History" on Monday, October 2nd, from 4 PM to 5 PM in the Council Chambers, City Hall. Sponsored by AHA for the 75th anniversary celebration of the passage of the nineteenth amendment, the program will feature contemporary Ames women celebrating the lives of significant women in Ames history. The program is one of many to be offered the week of October 1 for the anniversary, and is free and open to the public.

OCTOBER 20

A one-day bus trip on Friday, October 20 will take members of The Story Center development committee to the Grout Museum in Waterloo, and other sites of interest in that area. The trip is also open to AHA members, and will cost \$15 for transportation. Departure will be 7:45 AM, with return by 5 PM. Paid reservations are due to Kathy Svec, 603 Grand, Ames by October 1. Questions? Call 232-4877, evenings.

NOVEMBER 4

Ames History Book Sale Day will take place on Saturday, November 4th, 9 AM to 7 PM at Big Table Books, 330 Main Street, Ames. Available for sale will be Farwell Brown's *Ames, The Early Years in Word & Pictures* and Mary Atherly's *Farm House, College Farm to University Museum*. Also for sale will be books published for Ames' centennial and quasiquintennial, a collection of columns written by K.W. Brown (Farwell's grandfather), historic Ames posters and postcards, and Story County Iowa Sesquicentennial items.

They Ate Dean Curtiss' Blue Ribbon Pig

by Farwell J. Brown

On February 6, 1919 at about 11:30 PM, ten initiates of the Beta fraternity went out on a "raiding expedition", the purpose of which was to find a pig to expedite a planned pig roast. They caught a pig down on the Rockwood farm located about two miles south of campus.

Dean Curtiss, of course, was the Dean of the school of agriculture at Iowa State. It was never explained whether or not any of the ten fellows involved in that expedition knew that it was Dean Curtiss' farm. They soon found out, because as it turned out, they had selected one of the Dean's prize purebred boars.

They killed the pig on the spot and hauled it home, leaving blood stains all the way to the fraternity house. A hired hand followed the trail and notified F.W. Willey, the town Marshall, who found the freshly butchered hog in the Beta's ice box the next morning.

Those ten Betas were all called before the Board of Deans. Each man willingly signed a full confession. Those confessions covered every detail of their midnight expedition. Following their deliberations, it was the unanimous decision of the Board that all

ten men be indefinitely suspended and that the college should be slow to consider reinstatement.

That is the end of the story except to add that the Dean also appeared before the Story County Grand Jury and that there was an indictment that resulted.

A check of the record reveals that of the ten men who were "prematurely" expelled, two of them did later return to Iowa State and graduate. One of the two

became head of

one of Iowa's leading wholesale hardware firms. Many of the em-



This is a picture of Dean Curtiss in 1919. It was never explained whether or not any of the ten fellows involved in that expedition knew that it was Dean Curtiss' farm.

ployees of that firm, in later years, would hear at least a "selected version" of that famous night raid. ♦



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David Ballard, Jr.

The Ames Heritage Association is a legally incorporated, not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in state and local history through educational publications, programs and displays. The Board meets the 3rd Monday of each month, September - June. Interested persons are welcome.

The AMES INTELLIGENCER is named after an early Ames newspaper and is published three times a year for Association members. Comments/questions may be directed to the Editor.

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